

## **Municipal Lighting Plant - Municipal Energy Efficiency Program**

### **PON-ENE-2014-027 Question & Answer**

#### **FUNDING**

1. Can the grant application from a joint action agency or energy cooperative, acting on behalf of more than one MLP, exceed \$250,000 in combined funding among all the MLPs?

A: Yes, the maximum amount per MLP, regardless of whether an independent application or a joint application is submitted by a partner, is \$250,000. So, for example, an application that includes three MLPs that is submitted by an energy cooperative could apply for \$300,000-\$750,000.

2. Is a joint application, submitted by a joint action agency or other partner, that includes multiple MLPs viewed as an aggregate or by individual MLPs within the application?

A: A joint application is viewed in the aggregate for all of the included MLPs. A partner organization may assist with multiple joint applications if separate groups of MLPs wish to propose different programs.

3. Is the \$100,000 grant amount the absolute minimum a MLP can request? If not, could a MLP request less and if so, how does that affect the requirement of the municipal project having to be at least \$25,000 but no more than 50%?

A: The minimum of \$100,000 was set to provide enough funds to provide a robust MLP efficiency program AND enough funds to complete a significant municipal efficiency project. Consistent with the "Eligibility Criteria/Program Requirements", DOER will consider an application for no less than \$50,000 per MLP. The minimum amount of \$25,000 per municipal energy project remains.

4. Is there a predetermined formula for calculating the level of incentive (grant) to MLP contribution? And, is there a minimum value associated with an MLP program(s)?

A: There are no set formulas or minimum values, although these factors may be taken into consideration during the competitive evaluation process.

5. What is the expected ratio of leveraged funds to grant request/award?

A: This ratio is dependent upon the applications received and awarded.

6. Can one municipal utility submit two or more distinct initiatives?

A: Yes, multiple initiatives are encouraged within one application.

7. When are approved grant funds disbursed by the DOER - and how?

A: Final terms for grant fund disbursement schedules will be included in the contract with awardees. One likely structure is the upfront distribution of 50% of the grant funds upon execution of the contract. The second and third disbursements of 25% each would occur upon expenditure of all prior funds. For all disbursements, no additional funds will be disbursed until all invoices have been received. Additionally, the final disbursement will not be made until all reporting requirements have been met.

## PROCESS

8. Does a town Sustainability Committee or Green Committee tasked with conservation issues qualify as an “Energy Committee”?

A: Yes, these would qualify as an Energy Committee as long as there is a liaison or representative from the MLP that serves on the committee.

9. Can grant recipients *independently* select vendors to implement ECMs?

A: This will depend upon the structure of the awarded efficiency programs proposed by a MLP.

10. Are there exceptions to the MEI requirement, specifically for smaller MLPs?

A: There are no exceptions to the MassEnergyInsight (MEI) requirement regardless of MLP size. The MLP must provide quarterly data for each of their served municipalities included in this application for a minimum of one year preceding and two years following the municipal efficiency project.

11. Can a joint action agency or other partner be an authorized user on the MEI on behalf of a municipality or municipalities?

A: No, the municipality must have an authorized user so that they have access to all of the tracking and reporting capabilities that MEI enables. A municipality may elect to also authorize a partner organization's representative to have access to their data.

12. Does MLP participation in any way result in an obligation upon the town as it pertains to Green Communities?

A: Participation by a MLP does not in any way result in any obligations upon the town to pursue Green Communities designation.

## EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

13. Do projects which provide real-time load monitoring (including usage and demand) qualify under this program or are permanent demand/usage reductions required?

A: Real-time load monitoring that includes a component to reduce energy usage would qualify; monitoring without demand or usage reductions do not qualify.

14. Do retro-commissioning studies for commercial buildings qualify?

A: Yes, these studies qualify.

15. Do technical/engineering studies for energy consumption and process optimization at water/wastewater treatment facilities qualify?

A: Yes, these studies qualify.

16. Do ASHRAE Level I or II audits qualify?

A: Yes, these studies qualify.

17. Would the expansion of existing programs – such as residential energy audits – qualify? This could be achieved either through increased participation or enhanced services.

A: Yes, expansion of existing programs qualify.

18. Do programmable and/or wireless thermostats qualify?

A: Yes, these technologies would qualify.

19. Under the two-year M&V provisions outlined in the grant application, would any of the funding be withheld should actual usage reductions (kWh savings) fall short of forecasts?

A: No, disbursement of funding will depend upon completed work in the awarded energy programs and compliance with reporting requirements, including providing data to MassEnergyInsight.

20. Do services, such as power factor correction, qualify in instances where penalties are imposed by the host utility (e.g., < .90)?

A: No, these do not qualify.